

buried there were known as professional people—doctors, lawyers, teacher, and legislators. I was deeply impressed with the tribute given Senator Stennis by his son, John Hampton Stennis. He stated Senator Stennis' campaign pledge and creed when Senator Stennis ran for the Senate in 1947, after having served as a circuit court judge for 10 years. That political creed was "I want to plow a straight furrow right down until the end of my row." Obviously, Senator Stennis succeeded with that campaign pledge. And that philosophy seems to have guided his entire political career and his life. With those words John Hampton captured the spirit and philosophy of John C. Stennis.

Senator Stennis taught through example. He has left both a challenge and a pattern of conduct for citizenship, as well as public life.

What can our citizens today find in John C. Stennis to emulate? A course of conduct that inspires confidence; absolute personal dedication; noble purposes always foremost as a motive and objective; standards in public and private life unexcelled; a willingness to serve; a willingness to lead and endlessly carry the penalty of leadership, and above all else, the attainment of being an honorable man.

I believe we find here a man and a record that fully live up to the everlasting call of the poet, Gilbert Holland, who said:

God, give us men! A time like this demands
Strong minds, great hearts, true faith and
ready hands;

Men whom the lust of office does not kill;
Men whom the spoils of office cannot buy;
Men who possess opinions and a will;
Men who have honor; men who will not lie;
Strong men, who live above the fog
In public duty and in private thinking.

Mary and I extend our heartfelt sympathy to the family of Senator Stennis—his daughter, Mrs. Margaret Jane Womble, and son, John Hampton Stennis, and to his grandchildren of whom he was so proud.

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION OF THE MCKIM BUILDING OF THE BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, this year marks the 100th anniversary of one of the most beautiful buildings in America, the McKim Building of the Boston Public Library.

Founded by an act of the Massachusetts Legislature on April 3, 1848, the Boston Public Library was the first free and publicly supported municipal library in the world. By 1880, its original 10,000 volumes had grown to 357,440, and the legislature empowered the city of Boston to take as much land within its limits as it needed to build a new library. The trustees envisioned the new library to be a "palace for the people, and as such * * * a monumental building, worthy of the city of Boston." They hired architect Charles Follen McKim, a senior partner in the New

York firm of McKim, Mead & White, to design this new edifice.

McKim wanted to create a building which would fit with its architecturally distinguished neighbors—H.H. Richardson's Romanesque Trinity Church and the Italian Gothic of the New Old South Church. He modeled the building on Henri Labrouste's Bibliotheque Ste. Genevieve and recruited such outstanding artists as American sculptors Louis and Augustus Saint-Gaudens, French muralist Puvis de Chavannes, and American painters John Singer Sargent and Edwin Austin Abbey.

Since its opening in 1895, the collection has become one of the most outstanding research libraries in the nation, including papers of many Colonia Americans and New England Abolitionists such as William Lloyd Garrison; the Sacco and Vanzetti papers, and the manuscripts and personal libraries of such figures as the famous conductor of the Boston Symphony Orchestra Serge Koussevitzky and American composer Walter Piston.

It is also a wonderfully user-friendly library, providing many services for the community. It was the first to have a formal system of branch libraries throughout the city. In addition, there are programs for seniors, for children, and for young adults and a structured lecture series which provides college-level humanities courses free to library patrons. The new Johnson addition to the McKim Building is also where I vote.

The McKim Building has recently undergone an extensive restoration. I invite by colleagues to visit its marble lions, view the mural depicting Sir Gawain's quest for the Holy Grail, and enjoy the courtyard. The statue of "The Baccahante," originally designed to be the centerpiece of the fountain in the courtyard, was deemed too scantily clad to display in public. She was hidden away in a dark, unlit recess on the third floor, unseen and unadmired, but now she is being installed in her intended home.

Joshua Bates, for whom the Great Reading Hall is named, wrote to the mayor of Boston,

While I am sure that, in a liberal and wealthy community like that of Boston, there will be no want of funds to carry out the recommendation of the Trustees, it may accelerate its accomplishment and establish the library at once, on a scale to do credit to the City, if I am allowed to pay for the books required, which I am quite willing to do. The only condition that I ask is, that the building shall be such as to be an ornament to the City.

Mr. Bates, your wish has been amply fulfilled.

ADMINISTRATION'S PLAN TO SELL STRATEGIC PETROLEUM RESERVE

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, for the information of the Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD a letter from the Secretary of Energy to the

President of the Senate that transmits administration-proposed legislation. The primary purpose of this legislation is to sell strategic petroleum reserve [SPR] oil to fund the decommissioning of the Weeks Island SPR storage facility. I am having the proposed legislation printed in the RECORD instead of introducing it because I disagree with the policy of selling SPR oil to raise money. Let me explain.

The administration's legislation proposes three things. First, it authorizes the sale of up to 7 million barrels of crude oil from the SPR. Second, it earmarks the moneys from that sale for the decommissioning of the Weeks Island storage facility, and for other unspecified activities related to the SPR. Third, the administration's legislation allows the sale of the SPR oil to not count adversely under the budget rules. I will not speak to the asset sale issue because it is not central to my concerns.

The key policy issue raised by this legislation isn't whether the Weeks Island SPR storage facility should be drained of oil and decommissioned; that must occur. Instead, the question facing the Senate is whether we should authorize the sale of SPR oil to fund this activity and a host of other unspecified SPR activities simply because the administration is unwilling to ask for the necessary money as a part of DOE's regular budget. In a nutshell the issue is: Should SPR oil be sold to make up for a budget shortfall, or should SPR oil be kept on hand in case of an energy emergency? Before I explain my concerns about the administration's proposal to sell SPR oil, let me first describe why the Weeks Island SPR storage facility must be emptied and decommissioned.

Weeks Island is one of the five SPR crude oil storage facilities. Located in Louisiana, it holds 73 million of the total 592 million barrels of oil stored in the SPR. Weeks Island is unique among the SPR oil storage facilities. It was a commercial salt mine before being purchased by the Department of Energy and converted to an oil storage facility. The other four SPR facilities were created specifically to store oil.

In May 1992, a sinkhole was discovered on the ground directly above Weeks Island. The cause of the sinkhole was determined to be a fracture in the salt formation. Over time, the fracture has enlarged as a result of water leaking through it and into the Weeks Island storage cavern. In February 1995, a second sinkhole was discovered over Weeks Island, but it has not yet been determined if this indicates a second leak.

The water leaking into Weeks Island is accumulating at the bottom of the oil storage chamber and it is pushing the oil up. Although the leak is slow, water intrusion creates a risk of path enlargement and increased water inflow. This could ultimately result in a catastrophic water inflow, which would completely displace the oil stored in